

GRAUSTARK

6 November 1971

Winter 1987

EASTERN ALLIES ROLL ON

"What and how do you get it?" PG3 asked.
 "Well you sling a little pure guy about
 then you slick em, then the vaps get em..."
 "Enough, ENOUGH!!" cried our heads.
 Aqualing was just getting his full of the
 wine, as the GK catches him. BAWWW!! "X()"
 "Hahahah!!" "Ha. (violence will not be
 tolerated)"

LATE BULLETIN: Burton Labelle has resigned as Italy in 1971BC. He & Perry are the only resignations.

PEERY OUT, STAND-BY(S) IN, DEADLINE OFF

About 10 days ago, Larry Peery suddenly resigned as France in this new game. The Gamesmaster, John Beshara, has decided to postpone the deadline for "Fall 1901" moves until a stand-by could be obtained and the other players apprised of his identity. If any other players missed the 1 November deadline, stand-bys will have to be found for them too. For further information, including the new "Fall 1901" deadline, players will hear from the Gamesmaster, John Beshara, Apt. 1021, 155 W. 68th St., New York, N. Y. 10023. The stand-by entry fee for this game is \$5.50.

With his resignation, Peery has abandoned the pretense that he is publishing this game. Will he return the game fees? Don't be ridiculous.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Derek Nelson announces that, due to unforeseen circumstances, he will not be moving to the Ottawa address announced in GRAUSTARK #249. Mail will still (eventually) reach him at 18 Granard Blvd., Scarborough, Ontario. He can also be reached at the Parliamentary Press Gallery, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario.

Does anyone know James Neale's present address? His subscription runs to #286, and his copies come back marked "Not Known Here".

Edi Birsean reports the lowest price yet for Diplomacy sets. They can be obtained for \$6.00 at a discount department store called Stevens, which is located at Queens Blvd. and 49th Street in Sunnyside, Queens, New York City. They are \$7.00 at Spiegel's, on the corner of Nassau and Anne Streets in lower Manhattan. At most places they are \$8.00, including the publisher, Games Research Inc., 48 Wareham St., Boston, Mass. 02118.

Does anyone here still think that Hubert Humphrey's views have changed since he ran for Deputy Sheriff of Johnson County in 1968? In the New York Times of 6 October 1971, he summed up his Middle Eastern policy in one phrase: "The Soviet Must Get Out". This is precisely the attitude that he endorsed with regard to the Far East during his vice-presidency and presidential campaign. Since effective change is lacking within his party, the 1972 Democratic candidate will be either Humphrey or a man whose views on world affairs are in substantive agreement with his.

And McGovern? He recently showed his great concern for humanity by bumping two soldiers off an Eastern Airlines flight at LaGuardia Airport. (Jack Anderson, New York Post, 16 October 1971) If he's elected, I'll bet there'll be no such delay in sending them off to Bang-Bang Dish or wherever the next set of "advisers" is going.

The governments of the state and city of New York recently showed an unwonted concern for the public. For the first time in living memory, both the city colleges and the bars were open on Election Day. Since no substantive issues are decided at the polls any more, there is no point in shutting down things so that people can vote. But there is no reason to deny people the right to get smashed over this depressing fact.

"YOUTH LINKED TO SHOTS FIRED AT SOVIET MISSION HERE CALLED 'VERY RELIGIOUS'" - New York Times, 1 November 1971.

Robert J. Ward, publisher of Brobbingsmag, has a new address: Apt. 176, 8665 Florin Rd., Sacramento, Calif. 95828. Subscriptions to Brobb are 10 issues for \$1.00.

New players will find help in getting introduced to postal Diplomacy if they join The Diplomacy Association. Membership, which includes a subscription to TDA's bulletin Wazir, is \$1.00 from John Beshara, Apt. 1021, 155 W. 68th St., New York, N. Y. 10023.

Thanks to Edi Birsean, who sent a copy of the long-awaited revised rules for Diplomacy, the next issue of GRAUSTARK will give the rules and interpretations used for postal Diplomacy in future issues. New game openings will also be announced in that issue: #252, to be published on Saturday 20 November 1971.

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

((Now that the "Veritas Vincit" mess has been laid to rest, to the tune of the equally Latin words "Qui Donat Stereogram", we can get back to a number of more interesting letters that have been piling up over the past few weeks. These letters are published in the order that I pick them up; comments of the editor are in double brackets.))

DAVID C. ISEY, 32-25 88th St., Jackson Heights, N. Y. 11369 (3 Oct. 1971): A new game has been put out by the Avalon-Hill Company, "The Origins of World War II". It is a cross between Diplomacy and Avalon-Hill style wargaming. The game is designed for five players, one each for the United States, Great Britain, France, Soviet Union, and Germany, although there are versions for four, three, and two people as well. Each nation is given a certain number of Political Factors, a quantification of the nation's political, economic, and military leverage that it could apply. This varies throughout the game's six-turn length. These PFs are used to gain one's National Objectives, which are gaining "understandings" with other nations or to gain control over nations. The United States, however, scores differently. When interests clash, there is a Conflict Table, which is resolved with the use of a die, much like a war-game. Although placement of PFs is sequential, it has a definite historical purpose, and the simultaneous placement is allowed for as in Diplomacy as an optional rule. There are other interesting optionals, including four "what if" games which speculate on what might have happened if different things had occurred. ((A number of people of widely varying political views would be educated by the outcome if you set up the game under the assumption that in 1939 the Soviet Union was controlled by the Bloc of Rightists and Trotskyites!)) For anyone interested in Diplomacy, the game is excellent. It is the first real historical game that is not a wargame, and should impress upon many the advantages of simulation games. It runs from 45 to 90 minutes in length, and requires almost as much Diplomatic skill as Diplomacy, for one must get all items together to win.

The Diplomacy players at the House of Games ((at 143 West)) 72nd St. have embraced the game as excellent, and I, who helped in its evaluation, agree. It sells for \$8.95 in Brantano's and good toy and hobby shops. Simulations Publications, of 34 E. 23rd St., New York 10010 ((publishers of Strategy & Tactics)) however will sell it to you for a dollar less. All in all an excellent game. More articles on "Origins of World War II" will appear in the wargames magazine D-Blitz.

On another topic, I would like to see you more fully expose the "Vincent E. Livermore hoax" mentioned last issue. I have heard it spoken of before that a New York Dippy player had created an alter ego yclept "Vincent E. Livermore" to be used in the same manner as Eric Blake/Lenard Lakofka/Laurence Wilcox Stone/Banga Leslie Tapscott. This should be exposed as the fraudulent practice it is.

((Sorry, but Livermore is real. John Bashara assures me that he is a CCNY undergraduate, a regular House of Games player. An indignant letter from Livermore himself, which appears later in this issue, confirms this. For the Blake and Lakofka hoaxes see GRAUSTARK #248, p. 8. I have never heard Stone's name before. As for Banga Leslie Tapscott, wouldn't you like to know?))

WALTER BUCHANAN (8 Sept. 1971): If my calculations are correct, p. 6 of this issue of GRAUSTARK ((#247)) is its 2000th page. My most sincere congratulations to you and here's hoping for many thousand pages of GRAUSTARK to come.

((Furthermore, this letter was written on my 39th birthday.))

JOHN A. McCALLUM, P. O. Box 52, Ralston, Alberta (11 Aug. 1971): Though I am dropping Sarandip, I will continue to publish in a somewhat desultory fashion as required by the Bourse. I think I will call the Bourse bulletin Pfennig-Halbpfennig which both adheres to the old Dippy tradition of naming coins after fictional countries of the approximate time and place of our game, and sounds appropriate for the worthless Bourse currencies. Rod ((Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego, Calif. 92116)) will be taking over the Sarandip games and, I think, will be retaining the name.

((The Grand Duchy of Pfennig-Halbpfennig appears in the Gilbert & Sullivan operetta The Grand Duke. I believe the last that they wrote in collaboration. It is little performed, and I am almost the only person I know who has actually seen a production of it. I saw it in 1944, in what was billed as the "American Premiere", on my first visit to the

campus where I now teach. Like many Gilbert & Sullivan productions, it has a good deal more social satire than is generally recognized. It takes a swipe at revolutionary movements, police agents who infiltrate them, at professional jealousies among actors, and at the overly "classical" character of British education.)

(6 Oct. 1971): I note that GRAF seems to be at a stage where you will likely soon be thinking of new games. Only three going on, one of them run by Beshara ((now, two)) and one of them virtually over. ((This was 1970BG, which ended in the last issue.)) If you decide to have more games at this point would you be thinking of having another Quiz game? In case you are, and in case one of the quizzes is on boudoir history, a la "Whose Little Girl Are You", here are a couple of questions which might be usable:

In the mid-morning of June 18, 1815, as the first shots of the Battle of Waterloo were being fired, who could have truthfully said, 'I've been the mistress of the victor of today's battle.'?

At the time of the opening of our game there were two instances of the building used by one of our great powers as its embassy in the capital of another of our great powers having been originally built as a 'morning gift', i. e., a gift to a lover. Which? (I am using the term 'morning gift' loosely; there was no actualmorganatic marriage involved.)

Will send answers next time; you might as well puzzle for a bit yourself.

((At present I am still trying to get from Games Research Inc., publishers of Diplomacy, a copy of the revised rules. If I can do so, I will soon announce new games under these new rules. Otherwise, I will announce these games under the old rules. I do not this time intend to start beginners' games, local New York City games, winners' games, or games whose entries are contest prizes. Please stay tuned for further announcements.

((The answers to McCallum's questions will appear in a future issue. I also hope to publish someday Ted Pauls' article about a woman who was contemporary with, and fully as eclectic as, the correct answer to the first of the above questions: Betty Junel.))

DAN GOODMAN, c/o Evers, 1406 Leavenworth, San Francisco, Calif. 94109: A few years ago, as I recall, you published one or two issues of a zine devoted to fairy chess. Is there much of a fairy chess fandom, distinct from orthodox chess fandom? What are the differences between those who stick with the orthodox rules almost exclusively and those who mostly prefer fairy chess?

((("Fairy chess" is a general term for non-orthodox variations on chess, particularly those with peculiar new pieces. It is almost exclusively the concern of problemists. The only currently published such magazine I know of, the German Faenschach, is practically a problemists' bulletin. The best books on this topic are Les Jeux d'Echecs Non Orthodoxes and Nouvelles Jeux d'Echecs Non Orthodoxes by the late Prof. Joseph Beyer. Murray's monumental History of Chess also mentions some variations played in previous centuries.

((A few years ago I published 2 issues of a journal of non-orthodox chess, called Starbuck after the little German village where chess was so popular. However, a lack of interest on the part of readers rendered it practically defunct. I may yet bring to completion my plans to publish a third and last issue, giving the results of problems published in the 2nd issue, and also an article by George Heap on the question of whether a Princess (a piece combining the powers of a Knight and a Bishop) can, with a King, force checkmate against a lone King. George demonstrated that they could.

((Anyone who is interested in Starbuck should send 50¢; he will get the first two issues at once and the third one as soon as it is published.))

On didactic games -- do you get Outwits? Alpaiguri did a back cover for #8 that's a gameboard for a game of life.

Heliotrope (one of the local free universities) has a course in designing games.

Have there been any pacifist war games, where the least violent player on the board wins? "You use poison gas; lose five turns." "You forgive your enemy as he is killing you. Go forward ten spaces, while he goes straight to Hell." (Which brings us to the question of Satanist board games.)

((Well, there's Nuclear War, a delightful little game of massive retaliation which is quite likely to end up with everyone dead.))

...Side effect of the new China policy: Mainland Chinese goods have begun showing up in Chinatown groceries.

EUGENE PROSWITZ, 240 Clinton St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201 (16 Aug. 1971): I am sorry to have to write this letter, as an old friend of yours, but I feel it is necessary.

In your commentary in recent issues of GRAUSTARK, I have, on occasion, noticed comments by you which could be interpreted as Anti-Semitic. Not wishing to believe that an enlightened radical intellectual such as yourself could be guilty of this, I have ignored them in the past.

However, your review of the game "Welfare Monopoly" ((in #246)) can not pass without comment. You portray a slum landlord and loan shark named "Izzy Schwartz". A more blatantly Jewish name would be hard to find. I submit that for the inventors of this game to characterize slumlords as being Jewish is totally undeliberate, and can only serve to foster anti-semitism among people who live in the slums.

For you to publicize this aspect of the game has no purpose except to arouse anti-semitism among your readers (although I trust that the readers of GRAUSTARK are intelligent enough not to be influenced in that way).

((At the time this letter arrived I objected to the word "purpose" with its implications, but felt that anti-Semitism would find few takers among GRAUSTARK readers. However, since Peery's unqualified endorsement of the 16th-century anti-Semite Martin Luther I'm not so sure.))

In fact, the cause of social progress which we both claim to support would best be served by a unity of blacks and Jews. The right wing in this country has achieved power by stirring up hatred and racial passions between the blacks on one hand, and the white working class (or substitute the lower middle class) on the other hand. Many responsible radicals, such as Jack Newfield, Pete Hamill, Jimmy Breslin etc ((also Mike Royko and Arthur Hoppa)) have come to realize that the blacks and radical intellectuals must unite with the white working class against the common enemy, the military and corporate establishment.

(This unity means educating the white working class; it does not contemplate a complete sellout of liberal values, i. e., it does not contemplate the route taken by ((Henry)) Jackson, Meany, Scammon, Wattenberg, and the Socialist Party.)

As for slumlords, I deal with them every day in my work as a Legal Services Attorney. Many are Jewish, many are other races and religions. Some of the worst are black, who exploit their own people. The poverty lawyers who fight the slumlords are 90% Jewish; the black lawyers are more interested in making money than in working in poverty. (I can't really blame them; a black professional who has risen out of the ghetto is more likely to feel the need to make money, and more likely to have relatives who need his support.)

Regarding the anti-semitism which I discussed earlier: Your attacks on Israel are suspect, inasmuch as they are devoid of merit. You criticize American aid to Israel, but do not object to Russian aid to the Arabs. In this respect, your position is similar to that of the reactionaries in the 1930s who opposed American aid to Spain, while ignoring the fact that the Nazis and Fascists were aiding France. The result of course, was that the Fascists conquered Spain, and got practice for World War II, which might have been nipped in the bud in Spain.

((A pet argument of supporters of the American invasion of Vietnam is, that by doing so we are nipping World War III "in the bud". This was the purpose of Richard Nixon's statement that "We have to end it in Vietnam with victory, or else it will break out somewhere else.")

Do you deny Israel the right to exist? ((No.)) If the answer is yes, you should read some of the history of World War II. Specifically, Arthur Morse's While Six Million Died, or Reiklinger's The Final Solution, or Joel Brand's Desperate Mission. You might ponder on the fact that American and British Jewish prisoners of war were not harmed, and were treated no differently from other prisoners of war, as contrasted to the extermination of the European Jews.

The answer, of course, was that in regard to the British and American prisoners of war, Hitler knew that the allies wouldn't stand for any nonsense, whereas the European Jews had no nation to look out for their interests. They also had no place to go, since no country would accept them.

The lesson to be learned by this is that every national or ethnic group needs a country of their own to serve as a homeland; as a place they can migrate to, if necessary; i. e., a place where they can be free, rather than subject peoples. It is strange that you support this right in the case of Africans and Asians struggling for freedom, i. e., you support freedom for the Vietnamese, but not for Israelis.

((There is no slightest implication in any of my writings on which this last statement can possibly be based.))

Besides, now that the Israelis are already there, where would they go if conquered by the Arabs?

If you don't wish to see Israel conquered, how would Israel survive if the Arabs are armed but the Israelis can't buy arms?

Perhaps, I am unjust to raise the issue of anti-semitism here. It might be more accurate to say that you are insensitive to the feelings of all peoples, not just Jews. You may be one of those radicals who loves humanity but hates people.

In support of the above, I cite two examples: First, your comments about the situation in East Pakistan. Your references to "Bang Bang Dish" show a shocking insensitivity to the suffering and mass murder of the people of East Pakistan. The American politicians who support the Bengalis are not calling for American arms to the Bengalis ((yet)), they are simply asking that the U. S. Govt., cease arming the West Pakistani Govt., as bloody a bunch of tyrants as any in the world today. Yet I have heard no criticism from you of our aid to West Pakistan. I am unable to fathom the reason why, unless it is that China, the idol of certain so called Third World radicals, supports West Pakistan. (Actually, of course, it is the West Pakistan govt. which is the real rebel, since the Awami League was duly elected to power in the last election.)

The second example is your comment on George McGovern. I am sorry that McGovern, who was described by Bobby Kennedy as the only decent man in the Senate, is not pure enough for you. ((I'm like Sir John's tailor; Bardolph is not good enough surety for Falstaff. Both Kennedy and McGovern supported the American invasion of Vietnam. That's enough for me.)) I can understand your abstention in the Humphrey-Nixon contest, although I myself voted for Humphrey as the lesser war criminal. However, to abstain in a Nixon-McGovern contest would be the height of irrationalism.

((("Shit minds one is not what we should strive for." - Ted White))

Perhaps, as an ivory towered college professor, removed from a personal stake in many of the day's critical problems, you can afford the luxury of abstaining in the next presidential election. I submit that the impoverished blacks in the ghetto, the young Americans and young and old Vietnamese who are getting killed in Vietnam, the Berrigans and other radicals being jailed by Mitchell, the defendants whose cases come before the Burger-Blackmun court, can not afford the luxury of this abstention.

((I have been accused of "insensitivity" in these affairs before. A few years ago, Bill Linden sent me a long list of atrocities allegedly committed by the Vietcong against the population of southern Vietnam, and accused me of being insensitive to the sufferings of the peasants of Vietnam under the cruel domination of these guerrillas. By now we know where this sort of thing leads. Whether a future Republican President sends American troops to help our faithful SEATO ally Pakistan against Soviet-backed Bengali guerrillas, or whether a future Democratic President sends American troops to help the oppressed people of Bang-Bang Dish defend their independence against foreign Peking-backed Pakistani forces, I will oppose it. To judge from recent actions of the US government, this will be about as effective as firing a water pistol at an atomic bomb. However, though we may have to put up with it, we don't have to like it.))

You might argue that anti-Zionism and anti-semitism are two different things. ((Not me; I am fully aware of this Aesopism.)) Theoretically, this may be so, but in practice, the first is usually a code word for the second. For example, take the recent incident where a Jewish doctor allegedly spit on a black worker in a hospital cafeteria. Certain community groups denounced the doctor as a Zionist. Now, obviously, they knew nothing about his views on the Near Eastern situation. For all we know, he may be pro-Arab and anti-Israel. In this case, the word "Zionist" was being used as a code word for Jewish.

(20 Sept. 1971): Perhaps I owe you an apology for my last letter. I should not have accused you of anti-semitism, since I know you well enough personally to know that is not so. What I should have said is that, on occasion, you have been guilty of bad judgment and of using rhetoric which, if used by others, might be interpreted as anti-semitic.

I refer here primarily to the "Iszy Schwarz" stereotype. If some one else were to publish a parlor game where a main character was a nigger named Rastus Jones, I'm sure you would protest, and perhaps urge your readers to boycott the game.

((The alleged game "Walfers Mowpaly", which does not actually exist except as a figment of the imagination of an author in the August issue of National Lampoon, does indeed

only that welfare recipients are "likely" to be muggers; see my review of it in *GRAUSTARK Pub.* Furthermore, National Lampoon is fully capable of giving a nigger the name of Ernest Jones - or even of calling him "KIM" if he is a Black Muslim who does not trust anyone over thirty.)

Some of my own feelings on these points arise from a tendency among certain new leftists which I find disturbing, a tendency towards anti-semitism or anti-Zionism. Part of this is a rebellion against their square middle class Jewish parents, part is the syndrome of the self hating Jew, with masochistic tendencies, as best indicated by Rita Freed, or by Michael Zwerin, who when he isn't denouncing Israel is busy groveling at the feet of Elbridge Cleaver and Timothy Leary, as their message boys. (To achieve taking as the biggest idiot to write for the Village Voice admittedly takes some doing, but Zwerin manages to pull it off.)

((Since Prosbits wrote this letter, there is a new title-holder, a man with the solidly WASP name of M. Stuart Madden. In the 21 October issue he supports Frank Rizzo's candidacy for Mayor of Philadelphia. After all, Rizzo came up from poor immigrant stock, "made it on effort and hard work", and is a man of the people who understands their problems. On the other hand, his Republican opponent Thacher Longstrech is a hide-bioiced member of the effete old WASP nobility. If you come from Philadelphia or have read of its campaign this sounds like a bad joke; if not, it would take too long to explain.))

While anti-Zionism can be a respectable intellectual position, one seldom sees it presented as such. Among the main motives of its so called left wing proponents are some persons who support the Arabs as third world persons of color. These people are quite shocked when I tell them that Arabs are white, and that the only blacks in the Arab-Israeli conflict are the Yemenite Jews. They are also unaware that the Arabs were the world's biggest slave traders, and that Arabs still exploit blacks in the Sudan.

Another motive for the stance of these persons on the left is the theory that if the United States supports Israel, the Israelis must be the bad guys. Given the American foreign policy record in recent years, I must concede that this sentiment has some validity, (although it is not accurate in all cases, obviously). In fact, the United States "support" for Israel is ambiguous at best; certainly the American oil interests support the Arabs.

In evaluating the Near Eastern situation, one must concede that Israel is far from perfect but has a higher degree of democracy than you might expect from any nation, given the external dangers with which it faces. After all, it is surrounded by hostile nations who have repeatedly threatened Israel's destruction.

On the question of aid to Israel: If the Arabs are getting arms from Russia, Israel must have arms from somewhere to survive, therefore American aid is necessary. There is no analogy to Viet Nam, since no American troops are being used. If anything, the analogy is between Israel and North Viet Nam, since both countries are attempting to defend themselves from invasion by hostile forces.

((Of course American troops are not sent to start with. First go guns, and/or credits to buy them with. Then, in order to ensure that they will be paid for, and that there will be a government to do the paying, more guns and other military equipment will be sent. Next will come American "advisers". Then come people to protect the advisers that are already there. And before you know it, you have half a million Americans fighting there, with no one really understanding how they got there, and with no end in sight. This is no far-fetched projection, but a description of something that has already happened once and is fully capable of happening again.

((And it is far more likely to happen in Israel than in Vietnam. The American invasion of Vietnam was nothing but a financial arrangement, to protect American investment in a place that Americans really didn't care about. Millions of Americans, by no means all of them Jewish, care deeply about Israel. It is no accident that in 1970 almost every candidate in Brooklyn had a two-plank platform: Get out of Vietnam, and more help to Israel.))

The supporters of the Palestinian guerrillas do not realize that they are basically adopting a hardhat mentality. In the United States, the conservative ruling classes have long realized that they cannot expect to win a majority vote on economic issues. If voters realized that the conservatives were the allies of the wealthy interests, and the liberals and radicals represented the interests of the common people, the conservatives would never win.

This is
O It
P Great
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an election. As a result, the conservative strategy, ever since 1860, has been to rely on other issues, such as crime, or communism, or patriotism, to swing the masses to the right.

((This analysis ignores the fact that almost every man instrumental in getting the United States into Vietnam has iron-bound, copper-bottomed, genuine, certified credentials as a liberal. Though it has whole-hearted conservative support, this war is a liberal's war!))

Thus the construction workers forget that most of their tax money goes to support the war and to support tax loopholes and govt. subsidies for the rich (e. g., welfare for Lockheed). They also forget that their sons and brothers are being sent to Viet Nam, being miserably underpaid, and getting killed there. Instead, the right wing very cleverly directs their anger at students and "peaceniks".

The same analogy exists in the Near East. The Arab masses, for the most part, live under miserable economic conditions. However, their rulers manage to continue to exploit them by directing their attention, not towards improving their conditions at home, but towards a war with Israel. As Marx might have said, and probably did say, nationalism as well as religion is the opiate of the people, at least where nationalism appears in the form of super patriotism and desire for conquest, as expressed by those twin brothers, the American hard-hats and Arab guerrillas.

The question of return of occupied territories is more complex. The problem is that Israel needs its present defensive frontiers, which are natural boundaries like the Jordan River, Suez Canal, Red Sea, and Golan heights. There is a certain analogy with Czechoslovakia, which was left defenseless by the loss of the Sudetenland, with its natural mountain defenses. Since you oppose American aid to Israel, you should favor the present boundaries, so that Israel can defend itself without American help.

((I favor the present boundaries, but for totally different reasons. I believe that every de facto frontier in the world ought to be accepted as definitive. Otherwise we let ourselves in for all sorts of historical rabbit-hunting, such as Red Walker let himself in for in his article on middle-eastern problems in GRADSTARK #242.

((But "defensive frontiers" is a rationale on which any conquest may be justified. Once Hungary considered its "natural boundaries" to be that eminently "defensive frontier" the Carpathian and Transylvanian mountains which ring the country in more than a half-circle. Slovakia and Transylvania were stripped from Hungary in 1918. Since then, a Hungarian irredentist might argue, Hungary has been subjected to two Soviet invasions in 1945 and 1956, plus all sorts of other troubles. Would this be justification for once again putting thousands of Slovaks, Ukrainians, and Rumanians under Hungarian rule?

((And why is the Jordan River a "natural boundary" south of the Sea of Galilee, but not to its north?))

On the presidential race: Four more years of Nixon, and the federal judiciary will be wrecked for a generation. The federal courts have, up to now, been the main hope of poverty lawyers seeking law reform, but that is rapidly changing. Nixon doesn't even appoint conservatives with integrity and some devotion to liberty like Sam Ervin ((devoted opponent of civil rights legislation)). His appointments are thorough going reactionaries, perfectly willing to suppress the bill of rights. They are not strict constructions, their construction of the Bill of Rights is very loose indeed.

Hugo Black will be sorely missed. Incidentally, he was the only true strict constructionist on the court. This led him to vote with the liberals on free speech cases, since free speech is guaranteed by the constitution, but vote against the liberals in areas like welfare rights, where there is no specific constitutional provision.

The biggest mistake the liberals ever made was dumping Haynesworth, who is a shining liberal in comparison with Burger and Blackmun. Haynesworth voted with the Fourth Circuit majority in United States vs. Broyles, one of the landmark cases expanding the rights of conscientious objectors.

The above is just one reason we cannot afford to abstain from the 1972 elections, even though the candidates may not meet the 100% purity test.

((On the other hand, liberal Democratic Presidents appoint judges with progressive social ideals like Byron White, or stalwart fiscal integrity, like Abe Fortas.))

LELAND SEPTO, P. O. Box 40, University Station, Regina, Sask. (19 Aug. 1971): Your answer to Walker (Jan. 24, 2, in the margins of his article) was fatuous. Current hawk rationalizations of aid to Israel - "...our Middle East bastion against Communism" - don't negate the fact that the Jewish cause, just as official Communist activities in the early

60's on "...imperialist lackeys" etc. failed to affect the rightness of Ho Chi Minh's fight against the Americans.

A good cause isn't turned into a bad one simply because some stupid arguments are given in favour of it - only if there are nothing but stupid arguments.

Your other answer - about no recent Arab threats to destroy Israel - is equally fatuous, like the last line of the joke in which B says, "But what have you done for me lately?"...Nasser left no reason to assume that his successor feels any different. It's obvious, in fact, that if he felt differently he wouldn't be Nasser's successor.

John, you can do much better than this.

((Since this letter was written Anwar Sadat has downgraded the Arab Socialist Party in favor of regional councils and put on trial for his life Ali Sabry, a man whose views are much closer to Nasser's than his own. The de-Nasserization of Egypt is proceeding faster than did the de-Stalinization of the USSR. And, since 1967, there has been virtually no Arab talk about "driving the Jews into the sea".))

JIM REILLY, c/o T. E. Reilly, USON-M/GS, APO San Francisco, Calif. 96346 (10 Aug. 1971): Your airmail letter took 4 days to reach here, and GRAUSTARK, coming with an 8¢ stamp, took 5 days to get here. So the difference is negligible.

Since I am unsure of GRAUSTARK's ways, I am confused about the "Bang-Bang Dish" article. ((See #244 & #245.))...To imply that George Harrison is involved in some sort of sinister plot to get the U. S. involved in a new war is nothing short of ridiculous. And Bad Pakistan is bad, unless genocide has all of a sudden become a virtue. "Bangla Desh" is the name of a country whose people want independence. To ridicule it and call it "Bang-Bang Dish" is less funny than cruel. And Tricky Dick is supporting Pakistan in this current episode. Witness the arms shipment.

((The partisan always thinks that the pacifist is really a partisan of the other side. I am just as opposed to Nixon's support of Pakistan as I am to the support given by most of his potential Democratic opponents to the Bengalis. And, if East Pakistan does get its independence, this independence will prove to be much like that of Texas. It will be a brief transitory period between its rule by one country and its annexation by another who helped it win its war for "independence" in the first place.

((Note that the Indian state immediately to the west of East Pakistan is called "West Bengal". There is at present no "East Bengal". If the plans of the Delhi-Dhahisport alliance come to pass, that role will eventually be filled by "Bang-Bang Dish".

((None of which makes Yahoo Khan any more of an angel.))

ALLAN B. CAIHAMER, 501 N. Stone, La Grange Park, Ill. 60525 (16 Aug.): I have been wondering whether the development of a form for submitting moves would make a Gamesmaster's job any easier.

There are a lot of variations on the theme, but what I envision is a single sheet of standard size, which might be the last sheet of the magazine, with the player's mailing address, stamps, etc., on the back. Thus the player doesn't even have to write his name on it; he fills out the form with his moves, checks his game number and country, and maybe the date, detaches the form, puts it in an envelope, and sends it.

The variations are legion, including different colored paper for different games, and what not. I suppose that a couple of hundred copies would be run at once, and only 7n used each time, so some flexibility would have to be allowed, such as a write-in space for the number of a new game. A player might have up to 17 units, and might want to cross out a line or two that he messed up; in fact, he might want to change his moves at the last minute; therefore, he would have to be permitted to send moves on a facsimile.

The Gamesmaster's address and other helpful hints could be on the form.

Provision ought to be made for the player playing in more than one game.

Of course, if the plan gets too highly organized Gamesmaster errors can crop up; e. g. sending somebody the wrong color of sheet, then misfiling it when it comes back.

If game number, date, season, country, etc., are checked off, the provision for check-off should be put close to one edge of the paper, so that, to check off the material, the pages can just be slid and the check marks examined.

Maybe press releases submitted on that otherwise blank back; maybe the deadline goes there and is printed every time.

Maybe some better ideas would develop in practice.

((Readers are invited to send in suggestions on this plan, which would be useful for someone running a very large number of games.))

VINCENT E. LIVERMORE, House of Games, 143 W. 72nd St., New York, N. Y. 10023 (7 Oct. 1971): Permit me to take exception to that ill-taking remark you made in the latest issue of GRAUSTARK (this was Buchanan's remark in #248, p. 2), claiming that I am a fictitious character, created by some person, so that same person could be able to indulge in "bi-personal" Diplomacy games, by this I mean this individual would be capable of playing, if you pardon the expression, with himself. This letter I hope attest to my most real existence and I am sure would like an apology sent to me or a suitable retraction made forthwith.

Furthermore, to answer your questions about my experience with Diplomacy and my background ((made in connection with the DipCon announcements that appeared in #244)) I said the following:

- A) I was introduced to the world of Diplomacy, June 14, 1971.
- B) I started playing Postal Diplomacy in July of the same year.
- C) I and Mr. Nick Maffeo, a very real person, if you know what I mean, organized New York's first Professional Diplomacy Tournament, which incidentally was won by Mr. Ronald Schiner of New York.
- D) At present I am a Diplomacy fanatic or devotee if you wish, and I can be found every weekend at the Chess-House at W. 72nd & Broadway playing Diplomacy.
- E) I am presently a student, junior, at CCNY, majoring in sociology, but most of the time playing poker in the college's lounge.

I hope that this terrible mis-understanding that you seem to have, I've cleared up.

((Certainly. I have been assured by a couple of local players that Vincent E. Livermore is Real, and am looking forward to dropping in at the House of Games soon.))

MICHAEL MONAHAN, 15 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia (25 June): A few months ago you asked me about two things: "ethnic" anti-communist activities in Canada and the Edmund Burke Society. Since that time there have been several small demonstrations by 'ethnics'. And, of course, there was the uproar over Trudeau's statement comparing the FLQ and Ukrainian nationalists and his statement that he had no pity for law breakers. He has since backtracked on this but he has succeeded in getting all Ukrainians mad at him. ((This is not a difficult thing to do. Since Heywood Brown wrote "The Piece that Got Me Fired", the Ukrainians have replaced the Irish as "the crybabies of the western world".)) I wonder how the 'conservatives' react to that one. They are always shouting against breakers of the law and yet they are strongly anti-Communist.

And, since the beginning of this year, the Edmund Burke Society has been on the CBC National News at least twice. Once they attempted to disrupt a meeting at which some of the people charged under the War Measures Act were speaking, after they were required to leave the meeting continued. Secondly they staged a 'demonstration' outside the Soviet Embassy. In both cases there seemed to be about 30 engaged in making fools of themselves. They act as stupidly as our local Maoists, but that is another story.

((Since this letter was written, a Hungarian emigre who belonged to the EBS made a violent attack on a man believed to be Prime Minister Kossygin, thus neatly tying up these two topics. Actually, Kossygin never went to Canada. The entire trip was really staged by the Canadian Council for Mental Health, in attempt to bring out from cover all the closet psychotics in Canada. According to recent reports, this project succeeded beyond its sponsors' wildest dreams. A program of treating the oddballs who thus identified themselves will begin shortly.))

ROD WALKER, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego, Calif. 92116 (14 June 1971): Whether or not the Lebanese are Canaanites is a matter of conjecture. Many are probably descended from the Phoenicians, but they are not Canaanites, any more than the Moabites were.

((("Phoenicia" is simply a translation into Greek of "Canaan".))

Public Law 86-90 ((which provides for the partition of the Soviet Union into designated regions)) merely relates to "Captive Nations Day", and does nothing more than enumerate a whole plethora of real and imaginary nations whose captivity (real or imagined) is being observed. There is nothing in that or any other law which commits the United States to the actual restoration of the "independence" of these nations. Even if there were, such sentiments are for public consumption, not for actual action. You, yourself, denigrate the "Soviet etc. Communist Conspiracy", despite the fact that, on paper, it exists. There is no substance behind the paper front, as you rightly point out. If you believe that the US is actually dedicated to the eradication of communist states, you are being put on.

((True. We're all being put on by anti-Communism, just as in the past people have been put on by other forms of prejudice.))

I agree with you that the Russians are missing a good bet by not being more solid-tous of Israel. One basic assumption of my plan ((in #242)) is that the Russians know it too and are looking for an opportunity to change policy without seeming to. One thing is already obvious: they want the Arab states armed, but they want the loaded pistol to have the safety on. While it may be interpreted as desiring to prevent precipitous action and to keep the Arabs back until they can win, I suspect that it is more to keep Israel alive. If Israel were gone, against whom would the Arabs need Russian help?

TERRY KUCH, 7354 Spring Lake Dr., Bethesda, Md. 20034 (6 Oct. 1971): Partition of the USSR: I think that modern superstates pose a great danger, and that those states composed of a number of peoples probably should be cut up. The resultant condition of several hundred countries will only make sense if the UN, or a similar organization, has control of international affairs, leaving individual states to be what England used to call "free states". Troubles arise, however, in those states that have no clean division into peoples, such as the USA, or those which, when cut, still are immense, such as China, with two major cultures and a multitude of numerically insignificant ones.

BOB MARD, Apt. 7, 2423 P Street, Sacramento, Calif. 95816: On the Italian thing ((a speculation in GRAUSTARK #231 that, sometime in the early 1970's there would be a civil war in Italy in which the US would intervene)) I assume that we have a counterpart to the Brezhnev Doctrine. Italy is a NATO member and we reserve the right to intervene. I suspect that the First Division, presently in Germany would be used and say very little about it. This division is nearly all career except for the lowest ranks, who generally are either shorttimers just back from Nam, or more commonly new troops just out of training being seasoned for Nam. Back up troops from the states might pose a problem but the initial reaction could be made with a minimum of disruption. AITA would get involved of course, but after a season or so of German war games even a real police action would look good. ((("AITA" stands for "Resistance In The Army", an anti-war group.)) I live in a largely Italian area here, and feel sure that they would intervene more or less willingly, especially as most are from the North and inclined to be pro-Christian Democrat. Most are Naples area, definitely not Red Belt. ((Naples is North?)) Of the Italians I knew in the Army they had little feeling about the old country. About the only group in the Army that made a thing about the European bit were the Poles, and I often felt this was mostly a put on.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

In 1969, President Nixon attacked as "permissive" the findings of the Presidential Commission which investigated pornography.

In 1970, New York City Republicans demanded crack-downs on Times Square bookstores and movies which were allegedly pornographic.

In 1971, this issue of GRAUSTARK is brought to you by a phallic Puerto Rican postage stamp produced by a Republican-administered Postal Service.

In 1968, Attorney-General Ramsey Clark did his best to put Dr. Benjamin Spock in jail for counseling draft evasion.

In 1971, private citizen and would-be presidential candidate Ramsey Clark presented a civil liberties award to Dr. Benjamin Spock. (New York Daily World, 22 Oct. 1971)

Are there any guesses on what Ramsey Clark will be saying in 1976? Or on who will care?

Shortly after Arlo Guthrie was arrested for littering in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, "Officer Obie" received nationwide notoriety. He now has more. On 20 Oct. 1971 his son William Oberheim Jr. was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in jail for having helped someone escape from jail. (New York Times, 20 Oct. 1971) "You can get anything you want..."

After the farcical one-man election in South Vietnam, the US-backed Cambodian government is not about to make itself another international laughingstock. Instead of having elections, the Cambodian dictator has abolished the National Assembly and is now ruling solely by decree. (New York Times, 17 Oct. 1971)

"YOU ARE ALL CORDIALLY INVITED..."

At 1 PM on the afternoon of Sunday 21 November there will be an across-the-board game of Diplomacy here. Please give a call in advance if you are coming; my telephone number is 212-0X 3-1579. I have two Diplomacy sets, so there will be room enough for everyone. In addition, for those who prefer other games, there is Chess, Go, Tactics II, Summit, Dynasty, Confrontation, Stratego, Mah Jong, Careers, Convention, and several other games. Some Baltimore board games fans will be in town, so fresh blood may be anticipated. Cloaks and daggers (right- and left-handed) will be provided as well as plentiful refreshments.

To get here, one of the following methods may be used:

BY SUBWAY: Take the D-train from Manhattan or from Coney Island, and get off at Beverley Road. Going upstairs, you will find yourself at the corner of East 16th Street. Walk three blocks east, and $\frac{1}{2}$ block to the south.

BY BUS: Take the Flatbush Avenue bus (#41) to Beverley Road, and walk three blocks west and $\frac{1}{2}$ block south. Or take the Cortelyou Road bus (#23) to East 19th Street and walk $\frac{1}{2}$ block north.

BY CAR FROM LONG ISLAND: Take the Belt Parkway west to Flatbush Avenue and turn right there. Drive about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles until you come to Cortelyou Road. Turn left there, and right three blocks later at East 19th Street. Go $\frac{1}{2}$ block. Park in our driveway if nothing else seems available.

BY CAR FROM NEARLY ANYWHERE ELSE: Take the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway to where the Prospect Expressway branches off from it, and there turn left. Take the Prospect Expressway until it turns into Ocean Parkway, and then turn left at the first place where it is legally possible to do so. This puts you on Beverly Road. Go about half a mile east until you come to East 18th Street. Make a right turn at that corner, and left turns at the two next corners. This will bring you to East 19th Street. Proceed then as in the previous directions.

Please telephone for help if you get lost.

GRAUSTARK, the oldest bulletin of postal Diplomacy, is 8 issues for \$1 from John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226. Overseas subscriptions are 5 issues for \$1 or 12 issues for \$1. Back issues are 10¢ each or 15¢ for \$1 or 35¢ for \$1. Available back issues are 239-249 and numerous earlier issues; see #250 for details. This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

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